

HOUSE BILL 302  
By Davis

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, Chapter 16, Part 1; Title 3, Chapter 2, Part 1 and Section 8-44-102, relative to actions of the general assembly.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, Chapter 16, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new section to be designated as follows:

Section 3-16-105. The office of legislative information systems for the general assembly shall develop a computer program which will enable all roll-call votes taken on a bill or resolution by a subcommittee or committee of the general assembly or a roll-call vote of the senate or the house of representatives of the general assembly to be posted in a timely fashion on the internet through the website maintained by the general assembly. In developing the program, the director of such office shall consult with the speakers of the house and the senate to determine the most efficient manner to accomplish such posting. The posting of such votes shall be implemented beginning with the second session of the One Hundred Third General Assembly.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, Chapter 2, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new section to be designated as follows:

Section 3-2-113.

(a) All votes constituting final action on a bill or resolution by a subcommittee or ad hoc, special or standing committee of the general assembly shall be by roll-call vote. The secretary of such committee or subcommittee shall call the roll and record the member's vote, orally announcing the results of such votes cast on the question.

(b) Beginning with the second session of the One Hundred Third General Assembly all roll-call votes taken on a bill or resolution by a subcommittee or committee of the general assembly or a roll-call vote of the senate or the house of representatives of the general assembly shall be posted in a timely fashion on the internet through the website maintained by the general assembly. Such action shall be posted within twenty-four (24) hours of the vote taken on the bill or resolution.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 8-44-102(b)(1)(A), is amended by adding the language, "including the general assembly or a committee, subcommittee or ad hoc committee thereof," between the words "members of any public body" and "which consists".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 8-44-102(b)(2), is amended by adding the following language at the end of the subdivision:

With respect to meetings conducted by the general assembly or by a committee, subcommittee or ad hoc committee thereof, the term "meeting" does not include discussions held by members of such bodies if a quorum thereof is not present at any time during which members of such bodies are meeting together.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 8-44-102(a), is amended by adding the following language at the end of the subsection:

Provided, however, the authority of Article II, Section 22 of the Tennessee Constitution which requires committees of the whole of each house to be kept open unless "the business shall be such as ought to be kept secret" shall not be construed as applying to individual standing committees of the house or senate or subcommittees of a standing committee or ad hoc committees of the general assembly as such committees,

standing or ad hoc committees are not committees of the whole; provided further, the authority of Article II, Section 12 of the Tennessee Constitution giving the general assembly "all other powers necessary for a branch of the Legislature for a free State," shall not be construed in any manner to permit a standing committee of the house or senate or subcommittees of a standing committee or ad hoc committees of the general assembly created by a specific house of the general assembly to hold meetings that are not open to the public at all times.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.